THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BAQHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (d) No, Sir.

(b) and (e) Do not arise.

(c) A composite brochure consisting of the above titles was published in November, 2002 for assessing the volume of their print order.

Indian Science Congress

3254. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next Indian Science Congress would be held in Bangalore;

(b) if so, when it would be held;

(c) the number of scientists expected to participate in the proposed meet;

(d) the estimated expenditure for convening the above meet;

(e) the amount released so far; and

(f) whether the Karnataka Government has been involved in organizing the above meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 90th Session of Indian Science Congress will be held during 3rd to 7th January, 2003 in Jnana Bharati Campus of Bangalore University, Bangalore.

(c) About 7000 delegates are expected to participate in the Congress.

(d) The estimated expenditure for convening the Congress is around Rs. 400 lakhs.

(e) The Department of Science and Technology has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 25 lakhs for the Congress and an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs has been released as the first instalment. In addition, financial support

and grants from other Government Agencies to the tune of Rs. 150 lakhs have also been received.

(f) The Government of Karnataka is providing the administrative, logistics and technical support in the organisation of the event and supporting the Bangalore University with adequate financial resources.

Indo-Brazil collaboration in Biotechnology

3255. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Brazil signed a MoU recently, on a work plan for collaboration in various fields of biotechnology; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in Science and Technology was signed in July 2001 between the Ministries of Science and Technology of India and Brazil. Subsequently an agreed work plan for cooperation in Biotechnology was signed on October 23,2002 at New Delhi between the Department of Biotechnology and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil. The areas identified for collaboration are : agricultural and medical biotechnology, bioinformatics, functional and comparative genomics. Joint projects on Rice and Maize, some medicinal plants and bioprospecting of genes and molecules are of high priority. Research, training an exchange of scientists, workshops and technology transfer are the main components of the agreed work plan.

R&D fund for Drug Industry

3256. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has finally earmarked a sum of Rs. 150 crore, as R&D promotion fund for the drug industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in providing this fund;